

My Pride and Joy....

As told by James Dowding.

My last years serving my country as a career Air Force NCO, I was given the opportunity to spend a summer at Michigan State University studying Hotel, Restaurant Management. We were stationed at Mountain Home AFB, Idaho at the time. Since my wife, Nancy, was from Minnesota, we decided to drive to Michigan and make a family trip out of it. During our trip East, we visited Yellowstone National Park, the Black Hills and Mount Rushmore in South Dakota, and the rest of the Midwest on our way to her home town of Hibbing, Minnesota. Nancy and our boys vacationed there that summer while I went to Michigan State for

six weeks. Driving back to Idaho we realized that the Black Hills area would be a nice place to live.

In 1984 I retired from the Air Force. We moved to Pampa, Texas as I was hired to manage a Country Club there. From there we went on to Corpus Christi, Texas. I was offered the position as manager of the Wayward Lady, a beautiful river boat with three restaurants aboard. In 1986 I was hired as a Civilian employee to manage the Officer's Club at Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota. Our dream came true. We were on our way back to the Black Hills to live. Life was great until one summer afternoon in 1987. The base was hit by a

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Welcome to the Northstar News, the monthly publication of the Northstar Region of the Lincoln and Continental Owners Club. We value your opinions and appreciate your input concerning this newsletter and the operation of the club. This is your club.



James Dowding wins 1st Place at the Counts Car Show
Rapid City, South Dakota - February 2007

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Members and guests are welcome to attend the Board Meetings which are held the *first* Thursday of every month except December at 7:00 PM at Culvers Restaurant, (dine with friends at 6:00PM) I-94 AND RUTH STREET, St. Paul.

Articles and other information for the newsletter should be sent to David Gustafson, Editor, at 308 Brandywine Drive, Burnsville, MN 55337.

My Pride and Joy Continued...

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hail storm like I've never seen before. My beautiful 1978 Mercury was destroyed. Parts for a 1978 Mercury were nearly impossible to come by (before the internet).

So, now comes the "Pride and Joy". I was talking with my relatives in Austin, Texas and described the hail storm and all the damage it caused. My Aunt said, "Do you want to buy my old Lincoln?" I said, "Yes, I need transportation but I'm not sure when I can get down there to pick up the car. My Uncle said he would drive the car up to Rapid City if I would pay for his flight back to Texas. Done deal. A few days later he arrived at the Ellsworth AFB gate with this beautiful 1979 Lincoln Cartier Edition Town Car. I sat on the curb and cried. I never thought I would ever own a Lincoln much less a beautiful one like this. The car is Polar White, white padded vinyl top and powder blue velour interior. The engine is a 400 with 2 bl

carburetor.

About a month later, I was offered a 3 year civilian position in Germany. After talking it over with the family, we decided that the assignment was a great chance To visit Europe at Uncle Sam's expense. So off to Bitburg AFB, Germany we go.

The Lincoln was to be shipped out of Bayonne, New Jersey bound for Bremerhaven, Germany. On our way to New Jersey, we stopped in Hibbing to see Nancy's family before shipping out. I went to a local muffler shop there and told the manager that I needed the catalytic converter taken off. He gave me a scary look and said there is a \$10,000 fine for doing such a thing. So, I produced my letter from the Department of Transportation that authorized the removal of the converter for overseas shipment. I told the manager to send the catalytic converter over to my brother-in-law, who was Service Manager for the Ford Lincoln Dealer in Hibbing. I told

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Trivia from the Internet

AAA - A History of Service.



President Calvin Coolidge receiving a membership in the American Automobile Club.

Almost immediately after the first horseless carriages appeared on America's roads, motorists began organizing automobile clubs. In 1902, only 23,000 cars were in operation in this country compared with 17 million horses. Yet, motoring enthusiasts had formed approximately 50 small auto clubs across the country. Nine of those clubs met in Chicago on March 4, 1902, to create a national motoring organization, and the American Automobile Association was formed with 1,500 members.

Those clubs and their founding dates were: Automobile Club of America, 1899; Chicago Automobile Club, 1900; Automobile Club of New Jersey, 1900; Long Island Automobile Club, 1900; Rhode Island Automobile Club, 1900; Philadelphia Automobile Club, 1900; Princeton University Automobile Club,

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Editors Message

May 2007

A few weeks ago, while having our Town Car in for servicing, I was visiting with Chuck Whitaker, who during the course of our conversation, suggested I try out the black MKX that he was driving. After about twenty minutes behind the wheel, I was hooked. Papers were signed and money



Chuck Whitaker, is explaining all of the features of the new MKX to Faithie and Marion.

changed hands and a new white chocolate all wheel drive MKX came home to our garage. While smaller than the Town Car, it is very heavy, some 4,500 pounds, no light weight. It seems to drive very well and the seats are very comfortable. We will see how it does on the trip to the Quad Cities in June. A nice crate should fit in the back, so Faithie can travel with us in comfort and safety. We will write about it in a little more depth in a future issue.

May and June should be very busy months. On the 19th, the club will journey out to Willmar for our out state car show at Mills Ford Mercury Lincoln. Activities have been organized by Francis Kalvoda for those of us who plan to spend the evening in Willmar. The next day, the club will participate in the

Willmar car show, one of the nicest shows in Minnesota. This also should be fun as there will be many cars that we don't normally get a chance to see.

June brings us the Black Hills Tour, over the 8th, 9th and 10th. Northstar member James Dowding will be greeting all members who can make it out there for this very interesting tour. The scenery should be breathtaking, with a lot of opportunity for picture taking. A separate flyer is attached. This is an excellent tour, and if you have the time, be sure to make this event.



Faithie with all of her friends, ready to go traveling. Soon she hopes.

June 29th, 30th and July 1st will see a caravan of Lincolns, with Karl Flick in the lead, driving down to the Quad Cities for a meet with the Lake Shore Region. Art Whitmire has some great plans for us upon our arrival, and they include a lot of great fun, food and picture perfect Lincolns. It's been a while since I have been to the Quad Cities, and I am looking forward to seeing it again.

On another note, this is the 72nd edition of the Northstar News. It has been a lot of fun these past six years, and I sincerely thank all of you who have contributed the fine stories about your Lincolns that have been the center point of this erstwhile publication. We have tried to make it better over the years, while not taking ourselves too seriously.

Thanks again...Till next month...
David, Marion and Faithie, the Samoyed.

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1901; Automobile Club of Utica, 1901; Grand Rapids Automobile Club, 1902. The first headquarters office was one shared with the Automobile Club of America, on Fifth Avenue in New York City. One hundred and five years and 50 million members later, AAA's most basic premise remains the same: safe, efficient transportation is a



fundamental underpinning of our society. **The Fight for Better Roads**

At the turn of the century, existing roads had been designed for the horse and buggy -- not the auto. Traveling on those dirt paths was often risky, and AAA's earliest goal was to lead a fight for improvements in the nation's roads to more safely accommodate automobile traffic. In 1902, AAA began its long journey as a legislative advocate with the Brownlow-Latimer Bill, which called for the appropriation of federal funds for the improvement of national highways. It was followed in 1903 with the Good Roads

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Directors Message

May 2007

By Bob Johnson

Is spring here? It is time to get our Lincolns out and do some cruising. This year we will have two great driving tours and our trip to Willmar will be another chance to get your Lincoln out and enjoy cruising down the highway. Our Mark VII convertible is ready to go, but it has to get just a little bit warmer before we put the top down. Seeing all the collector cars on the highway is the best sign of spring.

The first issue of the "NEW" Northstar News was published on June 1st, 2001, six years ago and now 72 issues later by Dave Gustafson. Since that time one of Dave's main goals was to have the Newsletter in member's mail boxes by the 1st of the month. Dave has met this goal every month, with a dedication that very few of us realize or appreciate. The newsletter is the soul of our communication, and Dave has made a tremendous effort to keep it informative and interesting. You, the members must also be thanked for contributing six years worth of "My Pride and Joy Articles about your favorite Lincoln" and other informative articles. In the first Newsletter Dave published, he stated his goal: "Our goal is to try and bring our members a monthly publication with news of our events and articles of interest to spark even greater interest in the Region, and increase participation at our monthly events". Do you think Dave has succeeded in publishing an informative newsletter and helped the Region grow? I sure do. There are many ways to show appreciation for a job well done; we hope that a simple **Thank you, Dave**, from all the North Star Region Members lets you know we all appreciate your time and effort. We now have the best Regional Newsletter in the LCOC, and the only one being published on a monthly schedule.

To help our Newsletter maintain our goals, we need you to write and submit articles about your favorite Lincoln and Tech Tips that can help keep our Lincolns on the road.

My Pride and Joy Lincoln articles are the cornerstone of our newsletter, please write an article about your Lincoln, after 72 articles it is getting harder and harder for Dave to get an article for each month's newsletter. We need your help, write an article about your favorite Lincoln!

Our Sunday Brunch, on April 15th, at Majestic Oaks Restaurant, Anoka, had 33 members attend and enjoy fine food with our Lincoln friends. The true sign of spring was the return of snow birds, Brad and Carol Yoho from Florida; Bob Jensen and Maryann Sarauer from Arizona; and Bob Bjorndahl from Texas; who attended this brunch. Our door prizes, white sweat shirts with "Destination Duluth" for our 2008 National Meet were won by Ed Myhre and Dick Serwat. Kevin Wilson found a great buy on white Lincoln water bottles on Craig's List web site and donated them to the Region. Everyone that wanted a Lincoln water bottle received one free. We still have a box of these Lincoln water bottles and will use them as door prizes at all of our car shows.

Francis Kalvoda passed out more information about our next event, our 5th Annual Out State Lincoln Car Show and 27th Annual Willmar Car Show on the 19th and 20th of May.

Karl Flick presented information on our tour to Quad Cities in Iowa, at the end of June. This will now be a three day tour, Friday, June 29th thru Sunday, July 1st. Karl and Sharon Flick will lead the tour though southern Minnesota and north-easter Iowa and will show us many interesting sites.

Our next event is our 5th Annual Lincoln Out State Lincoln Car Show at Mills Ford Lincoln Mercury, Willmar MN, on Saturday May 19th. Francis Kalvoda has invited us to attend the 27th Annual Willmar Car

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Bill, which AAA also supported. That federal legislation established the U.S. Bureau of Public Roads (now the Department of Transportation). But it wasn't until 13 years later that President Woodrow Wilson signed the Federal Aid Highway Act, which included portions of what was formerly the Good Roads Bill and Brownlow-Latimer Bill, requiring the federal government to appropriate funds for building and improving roads. However, the most ambitious public works program in the nation's history didn't begin until passage of the 1956 Federal Aid Highway Act, for which AAA was a leading advocate. It followed President Eisenhower's proposal to spend \$50 billion on a 10-year highway construction program, the basis for the establishment of the Highway Trust Fund which Americans still support through gasoline and related taxes.

Traffic Safety Endeavors

The rapidly increasing number of cars on the road in the early 1900s brought about a similar increase in motor vehicle crashes, and prevention of traffic mishaps became an early concern of AAA clubs. Pedestrian safety was also a primary concern, and in 1917 AAA issued a reso-

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Directors Message Continued.....

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Show on Sunday, May 20th. They will give out individual trophies to the car club with the most registrations. So please register and attend on Sunday as well as Saturday, May 19th. We have two Motels that we have rooms reserved at, Super 8, with 9 rooms, rate \$60 per night, call 320-235-7444 tell them rooms are reserved under "North Star Cars". The second motel is Country Inn and Suites. We have a block of 5 rooms the rate is \$110 per night for Friday, May 18 and Saturday, May 19. The motel has suites available but could not reserve them for us. They cost \$10 more a night, call 1-320-214-0300, to reserve a room and tell them the rooms are under "North Star Cars". Most of the motels listed in the flyer are already booked because of a Lions convention, so call soon if you want to stay overnight. For more information about this weekend, a flyer is enclosed. This looks like a fun weekend with many ways of being able to drive and enjoy your Lincoln. For more information about the Willmar Car Club go to: www.willmarcarclub.com.

Region member Jim Dowding from Rapid City, SD, has invited us to participate in the Black Hills Over Drive tour, Rapid City, South Dakota, June 8, 9 & 10. This would be a great place for a vacation plus tour South Dakota and enjoy your Lincoln in the process. The events include a Car Cruise, two Car Shows, Drag Races and Poker Runs. Registration for this three day event is \$40, which includes many items, which are detailed on enclosed registration form. For more information or to register online, go to www.bhoverdrive.com. The Comfort Inn I90 motel has 15 rooms reserved for us; rate is about \$90 per night. Call 506-348-2221 and tell them rooms are reserved under "North Star Cars". These rooms will be held until May 7th, 2007. Our current plan is to leave early Friday Morning, June 8th (550 miles) and come back

either Sunday afternoon or Monday morning. More information will be in next newsletter.

Our tour Friday, June 29th to Sunday, July 1st, with Lake Shore Region to Ed Veit's Car Collection in Quad Cities (Davenport), Iowa, was expanded one day to be able to enjoy the trip better. Karl Flick volunteered to lead our tour to Quad Cities in Iowa. They will lead the tour though southern Minnesota and northeaster Iowa and will show us many interesting sites. We will leave early Friday morning and stay over night in Le Claire Iowa, on Friday and Saturday Nights. Please call Super 8 Motel, 1-563-289-5888 (\$54.99 a night) or Comfort Inn, 1-563-289-4747 (\$67.99 per night) ASAP as rooms go fast this time of the year. The two motels are next to each other. See attached flyer for specific information about the tour.

On Sunday, August 19th 11:30 AM, we will enjoy a Sunday Brunch with the CCCA at the Lafayette Country Club and later, a boat ride on Lake Minnetonka. After enjoying a Marvelous Sunday Brunch, Todd Warner, our host will provide boat rides on Lake Minnetonka, in one of the grandest antique boats in the country, a 1937, fifty-five foot Mahogany Commuter yacht designed by John L Hacker. Event Tickets are \$35.00 per person, for both the Brunch and Boat ride, and must be purchased in advance. Bob Gavrilesco, will be taking names and money for this outing. Please make checks out to "North Star LCOC". The payment deadline is Monday, August 6, 2007. Mail checks to: Bob Gavrilesco, 1520 Chelsea St, St Paul, MN 55108. Flyer for this activity will be in the June Issue.

As always, keep the journey continuing in our marvelous Lincolns.

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 lution advocating that pedestrians abide by signals of traffic officers and cross streets only in designated places. In keeping with its concern for pedestrians, the AAA School Safety Patrol Program -- which protects children from traffic dangers -- was established in 1920 at the Chicago Motor Club and soon expanded nationwide. Today, more than 500,000 safety patrol members are recognized annually, in more than 50,000 schools. This program was awarded the Presidential Citation for Private Sector Initiatives in 1985. AAA's "Responsible Driving" textbook, first published in the 1930s as "Sportsmanlike Driving", has become the most widely used book in its field. AAA's instructional materials also are used in commercial driving schools and fleet driver training. AAA's Driver Improvement Programs help enhance driving skills for mature operators over age 55, minor traffic offenders and fleet drivers.

Automotive Issues and Assistance

Auto breakdowns have always been a source of frustration to car owners. In 1915, the Automobile Club of St. Louis was the first to introduce an emergency service for motorists. Their First Aid Corp -- a group of five motorcyclists -- would drive the streets of St. Louis on Sundays looking for stranded motorists and making minor engine and tire repairs. This service was so successful that it became a

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Pride and Joy continued...

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him when I got back I would have him reinstall the converter.

So, after we dropped the car off in New Jersey, we flew to Germany. The car was to arrive two weeks later. After four weeks had passed I started calling the Army asking where my Lincoln was. They couldn't find it. I was sick. Finally I got a call from the State Department saying they had my Lincoln in "London". It was delivered to the American Embassy by mistake. They apologized and said they would ship it to Germany as soon as possible. Ten days later it arrived in Bremerhaven.

I hired a carrier to bring the car from Bremerhaven to Bitburg. We agreed on a price for delivery. When the Lincoln arrived, the Transport Driver wanted more money. Seems the Town Car was too "Big" and took up the space of two cars. He had to leave a car behind. Some of the GI's got a good laugh out of the situation.

A big Lincoln Town Car is a rare site in Europe. We drove it in Luxembourg, Belgium, Bavaria, Switzerland as well as Germany. We received a lot of attention and of course lots of pictures were taken. The Local Ford Dealer in Bitburg picked my car up once a week. He washed and vacuumed it for me free just so the car would sit there on his lot for a while.

One afternoon the Wing Commander came to my office and said, "Jim, I

need to borrow your Lincoln, but I can't tell you why until later. I later found out it was because the Air Port at Luxembourg was fogged in. The Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, was to land at Bitburg AFB instead. My Lincoln was used to transport Mrs. Thatcher to Luxembourg City, about a 50 mile ride. So, my old Lincoln did it's job of giving VIP's good transportation. Now I can say that my Lincoln is famous. HA!

In 1989 we returned early to Ellsworth AFB by way of Minnesota. My arthritis couldn't handle the damp weather in Germany. South Dakota was celebrating it's Centennial. The Lincoln was used at the Base Open House Ceremony for South Dakota Governor George S. Mickelson. My 10 year old son told the Governor that the car he was riding in was his Dad's and to wipe his shoes off before he gets in. He also got him to autograph a piece of card board.

After that, Rapid City would borrow the car now and then to drive Distinguished Visitors in a parade. One day it came back dirty, so I stopped being Mr. Nice Guy. Only I would be driving it in parades, etc.

The Lincoln is not a trailer queen, nor is it pampered (too much). The car's been all over the United States. We drive it sometimes in the Summer. I try not to drive it during the Winter.

This February 2007 some of the kids from the Big Brothers/Big

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nationwide program called Emergency Road Service (ERS) and has now become one of the most valued features of AAA membership. AAA ERS -- which responded to nearly 29 million calls in 2000 -- is coordinated through a network of more than 100 AAA telephone centers, 13,500 independently owned towing services, as well as club-owned towing operations.

Energy Issues

AAA's involvement in energy matters has a long and far-reaching history. As early as 1918 AAA was opposing federal gasoline taxes. In 1923, AAA charged that an increase in gasoline prices was due to manipulation. In 1933, AAA conducted tests on the blending of alcohol with gasoline, and in the 1940s, AAA encouraged a reduction in the legal speed for motor vehicles as a conservation measure made necessary by World War II. During the Arab oil embargo of the 1970s, AAA initiated weekly Fuel Gauge Reports -- an overview of stations in more than 200 cities across the nation to advise motorists on gasoline availability, prices and station hours of operation. Through the years, AAA has played a leading role in the fight to make certain that federal excise taxes on gasoline are used exclusively for maintenance and improvements to the nation's transportation system.

Geographic Information Systems

AAA issued its first map in

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March Board of Directors Meeting...

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

April 5, 2007

Regional Director Bob Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM at Culver's Restaurant in Maplewood. Board members present were Bob Johnson, Dave Gustafson, Bob Gavrilescu, Tom Brace, Harvey Oberg and Roger Wothe. Other members present were Mary Johnson, Faye Oberg, Karl Fleck and Dick Serwat. The minutes of the previous meeting and the agenda of this meeting were approved.

DIRECTORS REPORTS

Regional Director Bob Johnson reviewed some of the responsibilities and tasks for the 2008 Duluth Mid America Meet. The arena parking layout may need some modification to allow cars to enter and leave for tours during the day. We may need additional parking besides the arena area. Bob presented the logo layout for shirts and sweat-shirts and took orders for some preliminary samples. After he presented the costs for the octagon shaped dash and trophy plaques verses a rectangular plaque, the decision was made to use the octagon design printed on a square plaque.

Secretary Roger Wothe has secured the use of the Morrie's Automotive Group building in Long Lake for the fall picnic.

Treasurer Harvey Oberg reported the treasury balance is \$2,848.62 with all bills paid.

Membership and Publications Director Dave Gustafson reported that about 124 people have renewed their membership with a few more expected to renew. He is preparing the 2007 Direc-

tory and will have it available as soon as he feels that all of the renewals are in.

Projects Director Bob Gavrilescu reported the sale of the remaining thirty sets of weather stripping to Chris Dunn of Lincoln Land for \$750.00.

Activities: The next club event is Brunch at Majestic Oaks County Club at 11:30 on Sunday, April 15th. Please RSVP to Bob Johnson.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM. The next meeting will be at Culver's Restaurant at I-94 and Ruth Street in Maplewood at 7:00 PM on Thursday, May 3rd.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Roger Wothe.

Pride and Joy Continued..

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Sisters Organization convinced me to enter the car again this year in the local "Counts" Car Show. One young 13 year old girl "Julia" did all the waxing and helped me get the Lincoln in place at the car show. We were in the "Classic's" Class. To my surprise, the Lincoln won "first" place in that class. The kids were elated and I was pleasantly surprised.

So, that's the story of Nancy's and My Pride and Joy. To my Aunt Uma, I thank her for the beautiful car and I promise to take care of it for as long as I live.

Our thanks to James for this very interesting article about his long journey with his Lincoln. Every Lincoln has a story, and this was a great one.

Ford, Mercury, Lincoln Quality Hits New Highs

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1905, a street map of Staten Island, N.Y. In 1911, AAA produced its first state map, a map of New York, and its first booklet of strip maps detailing a pathfinder's route from New York to Jacksonville. Pathfinders were early road reporters who even today keep AAA's map details up-to-date. Those strip maps were the forerunners of AAA's famous TripTik® routings, which were trademarked in 1932. TripTik® routings -- now available on the Internet at www.aaa.com -- include driving times, mileage, points of interest, current highway conditions, construction and detours, and are individually tailored for each trip. Since the early 1900s, AAA has been a leader in the development of maps and atlases of North America, Europe and many other areas of the world. This position of leadership perhaps resulted in AAA's greatest cartographic contribution to the United States when, in 1942, AAA placed its mapping facilities at the disposal of the Department of the Army in support of the nation's war effort.

Environmental Concerns

As the Scenic Byways program illustrates, over the years AAA has recognized the need to care for the American landscape. A leader in the fight for good roads and improved travel facilities, AAA has long worked with state and local governments in the promotion and preservation of America's scenic heritage. When private lumbering

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From the Detroit News, by Bryce Hoffman.

In terms of initial vehicle quality, Ford Motor Co. is in a statistical dead-heat for second place with Japan's Toyota Motor Corp. and Nissan Motor Co., according to a new study the Dearborn automaker recently released. Honda Motor Co. is the quality leader.

The report is based on an annual survey of 31,000 new vehicle owners that was conducted for Ford by the RDA Group, a market research firm based in Bloomfield Hills. The study evaluated 2007 model cars and trucks from all full-line manufacturers and asked drivers to list any problems they had encountered during their first 90 days of ownership.

The Detroit News reviewed the findings with sources familiar with the report. These sources said **four Ford vehicles -- the Mercury Milan, Ford Shelby GT-500, Ford Expedition EL and Lincoln Navigator -- led their segments in initial quality.**

Improving quality is a major goal for Ford, which is struggling to hold on to what remains of its U.S. market share after years of losses to foreign competitors.

The RDA study found Ford cars and trucks had 1,458 problems per 1,000 vehicles -- 32 fewer problems than the industry average of 1,490 and 128 fewer than Ford customers reported last year.

The results were even better for Ford's North American brands -- Ford, Lincoln and Mercury -- which combined had 1,456 problems per 1,000 vehicles. Sources said the overall number was slightly hurt by the automaker's European brands.

The Milan was one of the most problem-free vehicles from any manufacturer, with just 910 issues reported per 1,000 vehicles.

Ford spokeswoman Anne Marie Gattari said improving quality is a central aim of the company's Way Forward turnaround plan. "We are pleased with the direction of our quality, but we're not satisfied," Gattari said. "This is something we have to continue to be diligent with. Quality, along with safety, innovation and design, are our top priorities in delivering more vehicles that customers want."

Consumers need convincing

While the RDA study found that Ford has closed the quality gap with its Japanese rivals, it also found the company still lags its Asian competitors in customer satisfaction and another key metric: whether or not customers would recommend the brand to other car buyers.

RDA has been conducting the annual survey for Ford since the late 1990s. The marketing firm conducts similar studies for other automakers, and its findings have his-

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Ford Quality Improves Continued...

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operations threatened extinction of giant redwoods in Humboldt County, Calif., in 1919, a California State Automobile Association board member mounted a major campaign to raise funds for the Save the Redwoods League. Within six months the AAA club had raised \$100,000 to purchase 20,000 acres that were turned over to the government as a public trust. The land now comprises a portion of Humboldt Redwoods State Park which includes more than 17,000 acres of old-growth forest. In addition to encouraging fuel efficiency and conservation, AAA initiated National Car Care month during the 1980s, recognizing that a poorly operating vehicle can contribute to excessive energy consumption and air pollution. The goal of this program is to help consumers understand vehicle maintenance and encourage motorists to service their cars when driving conditions, travel distance and temperature extremes could affect performance and safety.

The Future

Vigorous involvement in travel and motoring issues have been prime activities of AAA for more than 100 years. AAA will continue working to ensure travelers' interests are represented in highway and traffic safety, energy, transportation infrastructure and environmental policies.

From the Internet.....

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torically hewed close to those of the closely-watched annual initial quality survey independently conducted by J.D. Power and Associates of Westlake Village, Calif.

Most of Ford's brands lagged well behind Toyota in last year's J.D. Power study, but those results reflected a new survey methodology the firm adopted for 2006.

Other independent analysts have also noted a marked improvement in Ford's quality in recent years -- most notably Consumer Reports magazine, which recently declared the Milan and its Blue Oval sibling, the Ford Fusion, the most impressive new vehicles of the 2007 model year.

"We see Ford as the top domestic in many ways," said David Champion, senior director for automotive testing at Consumer Reports. "They've realized they're going to be eaten for lunch if they don't produce reliable vehicles."

Champion said Ford's newer products show a marked improvement over those the automaker was turning out just a few years ago. He said the company has learned from past mistakes as well as from its Japanese affiliate, Mazda Motor Corp., which shares many common production practices with Toyota.

Spreading the news

Improved quality is helping Ford reduce its warranty costs, according

to another recent internal report obtained by The News. And dealers say improved quality is helping bring customers back into their showrooms.

"We're not seeing the recalls after the launch of the vehicles like we used to," said Tim Mullahey of Mullahey Ford in Arroyo Grande, Calif. He said rampant recalls in the 1990s did immeasurable damage to Ford's brand image. Now, he and other dealers are touting Ford's recent quality improvements in their advertising. "The problem is really one of perception. We're trying to overcome the stereotypes."

Doug North, of North Brothers Ford in Westland, hopes the company will also do more to trumpet the good quality news. "We need to be better cheerleaders for our successes," he said.

Recent Ford ads are touting the merits of Ford vehicles over competitors' models. They are naming names and staking claims to best-in-class performance and features. North wants to see more of that going forward.

Still, it takes more than strong initial quality reports to convince car buyers to stick with a brand, Champion said. "It's the long-term durability that will really put Ford back on the map."

Ed. note.. Stop by your local dealer and see for yourself just how great these new models are. Perhaps you will want to take one home.

Majestic Oaks Brunch, April 15th.

The weather finally took a turn for the better and the club had some sun shining on us for our April brunch at Majestic Oaks, North of the Twin Cities. Some 30+ members put aside their tax forms for the day and met for a great meal at a place new to us. While Majestic Oaks has been around for a long time, it was a first time for the Northstar club. There was much to choose from, and it was all good, especially the deserts.



Marion Gustafson has the attention of Sharon and Karl Flick.

New attendees for the year were Brad and Carole Yoho, Bob Jensen and Maryann Sarauer and Bob Bjorndahl, who returned from toughing out winter in Florida, Arizona and Texas. Welcome back, it is good to see you folks again.



Kevin and Karrie Wilson

Kevin Wilson found some Lincoln water bottles on the internet, which he graciously donated to the club, and passed out to the members at the brunch.

Francis Kalvoda from Willmar also talked about the "Outstate"

car show to be held at Mills Ford Mercury Lincoln in Willmar on the 19th of May. Francis has "Keys" to the city and we all look forward to having a good showing of Lincolns there and seeing some of the "sights."



Bob and Nan Roth enjoying the day.

Bob Johnson unveiled "Destination Duluth" sweat shirts, a great casual look, which is a walking advertisement for our 2008 Mid-America meet to be held in Duluth. Check with Bob Johnson about reserving one in your size, and order one today.



Shown above, is Dick Serwat's very nice Mark VIII which he just acquired. Francis Kalvoda, to the right of the door, appears to be impressed with Dick's latest buy. Dick has a knack for finding the real bargains out there. He tells us that this was an exceptional good buy. Lincolns from the 70's, 80's and 90's are very fine cars and can be reasonably purchased. It looks like a good solid car, only needing a small amount of tender, loving care to make it look as new. In the background is a new MKX, still a fairly rare sight here in the Twin Cities. Smaller than a Navigator, but bigger than a bread box, just the right size for Faithie and all her friends.

Northstar LCOC Quad Cities Three Day Tour

Taking place over June 29,30 & July 1, 2007

Tentative Schedule to date.

Please be ready to travel when arriving at the Apple Valley Perkins. We will have rest stops (bathrooms & gas) stops along the way every 100-125 miles. Please bring your CB radio (channel to be announced) and Cell Phone. Lets all share cell phone numbers in case of any emergency.

Friday June 29, 2007

8:00 am: Meet at Perkins Restaurant, Apple Valley Cedar (77) and County Rd. 42 for Breakfast (optional).

9:00 am: Leave from Perkins go South on Cedar Ave. to 160th street, turn east (left) about 6 miles to State Hwy 52 turn South (right) continue on to Rochester via Hwy 52. 72 miles

10:30 am: Gas & Rest stop at gas station near Rochester Apache Mall. We will meet up with other Northstar LCOC members. (Gas station & location detail to be announced)

10:45 am: Leave for Chatfield, Preston, Harmony and Decorah IA. 73 miles, 90 minutes

12:15 pm: Gas & Rest stop, Lunch in Decorah (3 quick food spots on hwy 9, DQ, Mc Donald's, other)

1:15 pm: Leave for Postville, McGregor 43 Miles, 75 Minutes

2:30 pm: Leave for Pikes Peak 3 Miles, 10 Minutes

2:40 pm: Rest stop Pikes Peak IA. State Park 30 Minutes overlook view of the Wisconsin River converging on the Mississippi from scenic overlook, short walk to overlook.

3:20 pm: Leave for Guttenberg IA. 17 Miles, 30 minutes

3:50 pm: Gas & Rest stop, Guttenberg Locks and drive by scenic view overlook

4:10 pm: Leave for Dubuque via Hwy 52, 40+ Miles, 65 minutes. This is a very scenic drive touring across the mountainous ridge roads overlooking the beautiful farm country in the valley.

5:15 pm: Gas & Rest stop, dinner at the Hudson Classic Grill 2345 N.W. Arterial, Dubuque IA. This Grill has sit down booths and tables with an antique car motif. You will feel right at home with a '50's Hudson car inside the Grill.

6:30 pm: Leave for Le Claire IA. (Davenport area) via route 61 to I-80 and then East our motel. The Super 8 & Comfort Inn motels are on the interchange of I-80 & Route 67. About 80 Miles, 95 Minutes

8:05pm: Le Clair (Davenport IA) Motel Check in.

8:30 pm: Many options for nightlife to include two Casino Boats, one in Bettendorf IA. And one in Rock Island IL.

Saturday June 30, 2007 Mr. Art Whitmire of the Lake Shore Region LCOC has planned a joint car club program to include a tour of the John Deere Pavilion (Antique Tractors and Farm Progress museum), Butterworth Mansion (Deere Family home) and two car collections of fellow LCOC member Ed Veit back in Davenport

5:30pm: we will have dinner at Sneaky Pete's back in Le Claire IA. Near our motel rooms. The evening again belongs to the venturous on the Mississippi.

Sunday, July 1, 2007 we will have some plans for the morning and will be heading back to Minnesota close to noon.

Return trip is proposed via Route 61 through Dubuque IA, Lacrosse WI, Winona, Lake City, Redwing and home. We will bring you more details about the return trip next month.

Editors note: Our thanks to Karl Flick for planning out our tour. More about this great weekend in the June issue.

Great Automotive Buys...

FOR SALE

1951 Lincoln 4 door Sedan
Restore or for Parts
\$250

Quite Complete, Lost Storage

Dick Lindahl, Spicer, Mn

320-796-5819

WANTED

Continental Wheel Hump
Style Trunk Lid for
1977 Lincoln.
(some limo's had these)

Call Francis Kalvoda, Willmar
320-235-5777

please help me find one

FOR SALE

1968 Thunderbird, California Car
429 Engine, Dark Green Exterior
48,000 miles.

Call Dean Carlson

651-645-6568 - 651-271-9022

1963 Continental Convertible

53,000 Miles - Blue with White Top
Very Nice Black Interior
Mostly Original Car, Runs and Drives
very nice. A good number 2 car.
Fairly Priced at \$25,000

Call Rich at 763-422-8165

For Sale

1979 Mark V, Bill Blass Edition. This Mark features a blue exterior, offset by a white carriage top and white leather interior with blue piping. Second owner since 1991. Originally purchased at North Hollywood Lincoln Mercury in the Los Angeles area. This is a very pristine California Mark, with only 58,000 miles. Preprimary trophy winner, with only 5,000 miles on tires and brakes. Realistically priced at \$10,000. Contact Richard Gray, 415-435-3539, email: grayr@sutterhealth.org.

For Sale

1956-57 Lincoln Engine \$300

1956 Lincoln Fender Skirts \$150

1946-48 Lincoln Front Axle,
Complete \$150

Several 46-48 Lincoln Grilles

Call Ted Anderson at 763-561-8143

**NORTHSTAR LCOC
CLUB JACKETS
ARE NOW AVAILABLE, ONCE AGAIN**

Contact Bob Johnson
651-257-1715
email: arborbob41@aol.com

Great Cars For Sale..... Other Stuff too....

Ron Fenelon, club member from Alexandria, MN reports that the downsizing of their Lincoln fleet is complete. Three Lincolns were sold to other Northstar Region members, and one was sold to an individual in Milwaukee, WI. The For Sale ads in our Newsletter really do work.

The following items are still For Sale:

1953 Lincoln V8 engine. Complete from water pump to flywheel, includes a carb., but no exhaust manifolds. On an engine whipping skid. \$275 or best offer.

1977/79 Mark V or T'Bird Class A Frame mounted trailer hitch \$50 or best offer.

1979 Collector Series Blue leather wrapped Tool Kit. Still in original box. \$450 or best offer.

Collector Series or Diamond Jubilee original wood insert key blanks, pair and uncut. \$100 or best offer.

Numerous Mark III and Mark V parts. Including a Mark III clock, the chromed dash gauge pods for the Mark III, and tail light assemblies for both a Mark III and a Mark V. A complete Mark V A/C Module, for both sides of the firewall. Complete Mark V Dash module and Dash and Glove compartment face plates for Collector Series or Diamond Jubilee Mark V's. They have the unique wood trim that is different from the Standard Mark V's.

Call Ron Fenelon at 320/763-4197 or email at rff8536@gctel.net.

For Sale

1972 Lincoln Mark IV

38,000 Miles, All Original, Trophy Winner Gold with Dark Brown Top and Leather As new condition. \$10K or fair offer.

Call Don Pennock 651-488-1596
Cell 651-253-5516

1969 Mark III

The feature car of our May, 2006 issue is now for sale. Contact Bill Juring at

651-484-2799

150 - LINCOLNS - 150

I have over 150 1960's Lincolns now, mostly parts cars. More than I will ever use. I have now decided to sell my extra parts; sheet metal, trim, whatever...

If you are restoring a Lincoln of this era and need parts, please contact me now. I may have what you need.

Please call Gordy Jensen at 952-851-2721

**STORAGE
AVAILABLE**

Safe, Secure Storage for
your classic
now available

Southwest Metro Location

Contact
Connie

952-835-4148

Preview of Coming Attractions

The following include scheduled club events

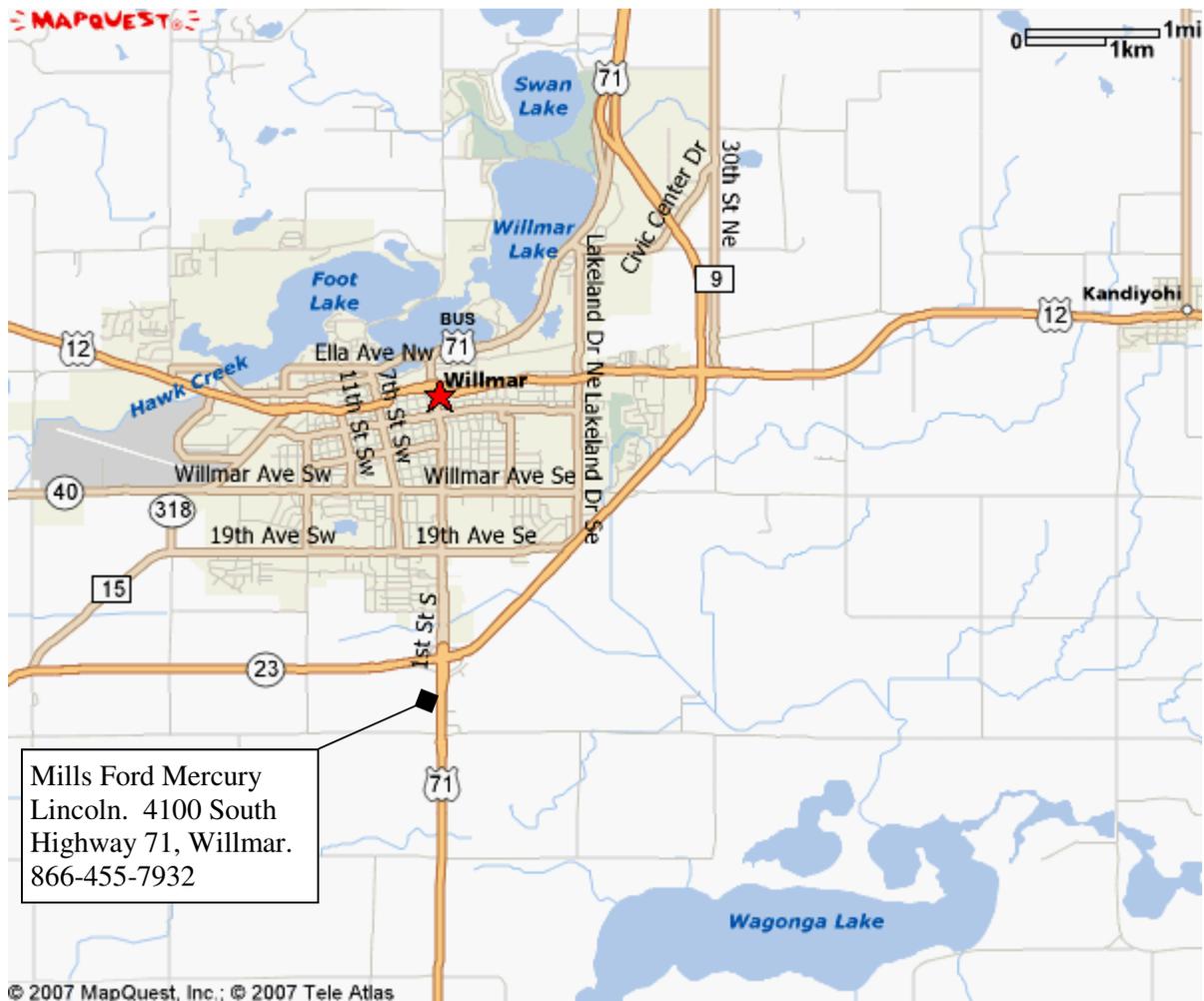
- May Caravan Tour/ Over night to: 5th Annual Out State Lincoln Car Show, Mills Motors, Western Minnesota, Lincoln Car Show Saturday May 19th, 10 AM to 3 PM, Mills Motors, Willmar, MN. Saturday night cruise, 6:30 PM, sponsored by the Willmar Car Club, and then on Sunday, May 20th, Willmar Car Show, 10 AM to 3 PM
- June Black Hills Over Drive tour, Rapid City, June 8 , 9 & 10. See flyer for more details.
Eastern National Meet, Cherry Hill, New Jersey, June 13 – 16, 2007
Back to the 50's, Minnesota Fair Grounds
Friday, June 29th, Saturday, June 30th and Sunday, July 1st, tour with Lake Shore Region to Ed Veit's Car Collection in Quad Cities, Iowa. This beautiful Mississippi area is home for Ed Veit who is a long time LCOC member and has two collector car sales outlets for us to view. We are working out details with the Lake Shore Region for this combined tour that should be great fun. Check out the tour schedule on page 11.
- July 8th Annual Lincoln Car Show, Whitaker Lincoln Mercury, Inver Grove Heights, Saturday, July 21st, 10 AM to 3 PM.
Lincolns on the River (and Fords too) Lincoln Zephyr Owners Club - Central G.O.F. XIII Meet July 17th through July 21st, 2007. Winona, MN.
- August Sunday brunch with the CCCA on August 19th. 11:30AM at the Lafayette Club. Todd Warner will be providing boat rides with his very unique "Hacker Craft" Details in June issue.
Western National Meet, Seattle, Washington, August 9-12, 2007
- September Annual Region Picnic, 11:30AM, Sunday, September 16th. Location and more details of this exciting event in the forthcoming issues.
- October Fall Car Show planned for North Country Ford Lincoln Mercury, Coon Rapids. More details to follow. First Saturday in October.
- November Year end brunch, Al Bakers, Eagan, MN. Sunday, November 11th, at 11:30AM

BACK ISSUES OF THE NORTHSTAR NEWS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE
NORTHSTAR LCOC WEB SITE.

www.northstarlcoc.org Click on publications.

Issues are in PDF format and may be printed on your color printer.

Out State Lincoln Car Show May 19th Mills Motors



Our Out State Lincoln Show will be at Mills Ford Mercury Lincoln, Willmar, MN on Saturday, May 19th, 10:00AM to 3:00PM.

Meet us there at Mills, 4100 South Highway 71, Willmar. Highway 12 West to Willmar, Left on 23 to 71, South to Mills. It is an easy drive from the Twin Cities, only about two hours, through some interesting towns to Willmar.

After the show on Saturday afternoon, there will be a cruise through some of the countryside to some points of interest. A great drive inn, Francis Kalvoda's car collection and a few other fun things.

Sunday brings us to the Willmar car show. There will be a lot of cars there, many of which us Twin City folks have never seen. Plan to attend.

Northstar LCOC Featured Summer Events

Black Hills OVERDRIVE

Annual All Car Rally, Friday, June 8, Saturday, June 9, and Sunday, June 10, 2007. LCOC member Jim Dowding from Rapid City has invited the Northstar Region to drive on over and join him for this very special event. This is a great opportunity to see the beautiful sights that abound in the Black Hills. There will be some great picture taking possible while on this tour. Perhaps even an opportunity to have the "Presidents" on Mount Rushmore for a photo backdrop. Make your plans to attend today. Please see the enclosed flyer.

Northstar LCOC Quad Cities Tour

It's June 29th, and we're on our way to the Quad Cities for a three day tour. Madison was great fun last year, and we are going to do it again. The tentative tour schedule is on page 11 of this issue. We plan on meeting with the Lake Shore Region and seeing some of the great sights that the cities of Davenport, Moline, Rock Island and East Moline have to offer. We plan on visiting the Ed Viet collection which has a lot of very interesting older Lincolns and other cars from the fifties and sixties. Something for everyone, and all nicely restored. **Complete details in our June issue. Reserve your motel rooms now!** Please call Super 8 Motel, 563-289-5888 (\$54.99 a night) or Comfort Inn, 563-289-4747 (\$67.99 per night) ASAP as rooms go fast this time of the year. The two motels are next to each other. These are special rates, so mention you are with the Lincoln Club when calling.

Northstar LCOC All Lincoln Show at Whitaker L/M

We should be assured of nice weather when we return to Whitaker L/M for our (would you believe) 8th annual all Lincoln show on Saturday, July 21st. Bring your Lincoln and meet us there at 10:00AM and join us for a full day of visiting, serious tire kicking, and a cookout hosted by Chuck Whitaker. There will be dash plaques and door prizes for those attending and peoples choice awards for the most favored cars in attendance. This is a close-by show, in Inver Grove Heights, which makes it very easy to attend. All Lincolns are welcome, so tell your friends who may have an old one hidden behind a older Plymouth or Chevrolet that they are invited too. Details in the June issue.

Northstar LCOC and CCCA Brunch at Lafayette Club

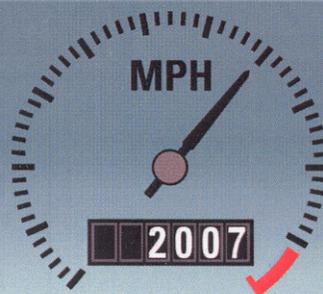
Circle Sunday August 19th on your calendar. 11:30AM is the time. We will meet at the Lafayette Club in Wayzata and sample the famous wares the Lafayette offers. Joining us will be our friends from the CCCA. After brunch, Todd Warner will be hosting rides aboard a very unique 55 ft, 1937 mahogany commuter yacht, designed by John Hacker. Tickets for this exclusive event are \$35 per person, and must be purchased in advance. Reservation deadline is August 8th, no exceptions. Please mail your check to Bob Gavrilescu, 1520 Chelsea Street, St. Paul, MN 55108. Complete details in the June issue.

BLACK HILLS

OVERDRIVE

ANNUAL ALL CAR RALLY • JUNE 8-10, 2007

www.bhoverdrive.com



Friday, June 8, 2007

7pm - Cruiser Night Parade
Mt. Rushmore Road, Rapid City
(6pm staging at Civic Center parking lot)

6pm to 9pm - Cruiser Night Dance
Civic Center Parking Lot, Rapid City

Saturday, June 9, 2007

10am to 2pm - Art on Wheels Car Show
Main Street, Hill City

5pm to 9pm - Wild Wheels Night Car Show
Bear Country USA

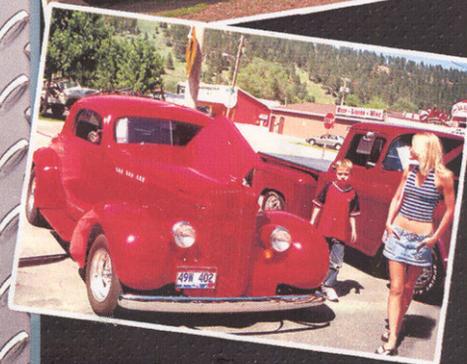
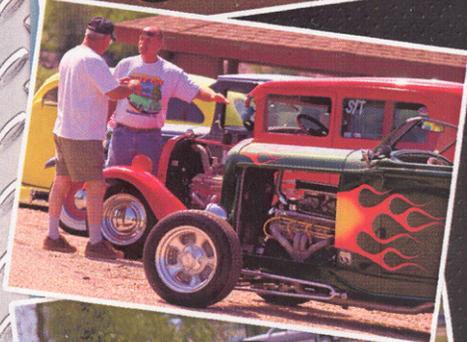
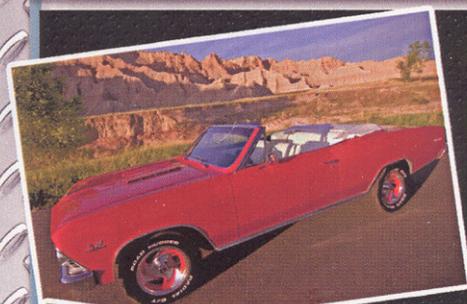
Sunday, June 10, 2007

8am to 10am - Pancake / Sausage Feed
Thunderdome, Sturgis

8am to 5pm - Vendor Display Booths
Thunderdome, Sturgis

10am to 2pm - Drag Races
Sturgis Dragway

2:30pm - Awards Social
Thunderdome, Sturgis





YOUR \$40 ENTRY FEE INCLUDES:

Register before May 1, 2007 to receive a special gift.

Overdrive Registration Pak

- Commemorative T-Shirt
- Commemorative Pin
- Window Cling

Rapid City Cruiser Night

- Pole position in the Cruiser Parade
- Special Display Area
- Eligible for "Chief's Choice" special recognition award

Art on Wheels

- Entry in the show & shine with \$1,500 in cash prizes
- Dash Plaque
- Noontime BBQ
- Commemorative Cap

Wild Wheels Night

- Entry in the show & Shine with \$2,500 in cash prizes
- Dash Plaque
- Commemorative Cap and T-Shirt
- Free Open Air Bus tour through Bear Country day of show
- Two free adult admission tickets for a return visit during 2007 Season



Glencoe Campground

- Free Pancake / Sausage Feed
- Drag Races (half price admission)
- All Day Vendor Show
- Awards Social

Sponsored in part by



POKER RUNS

- Admission in the Black Hills & Westbound Poker Runs with \$6,000 in guaranteed cash payouts



REGISTRATION FORM

REGISTRATION FEE ONLY \$40

Please return this registration form with an enclosed check for \$40 or indicated method of payment to:

Black Hills Overdrive
Box 5566
Rapid City, SD 57709

contact us at
605.341.5226

visit us online at
www.bhoverdrive.com

NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

METHOD OF PAYMENT: _____ VISA MASTERCARD

NAME ON CREDIT CARD: _____

CREDIT CARD NUMBER: _____ EXP. _____ mo/yr

PLEASE CIRCLE DESIRED T-SHIRT SIZE: M L XL XXL

E-MAIL ADDRESS: - FOR CONFIRMATION - _____

I PLAN ON PARTICIPATING IN THE FOLLOWING EVENTS: (PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

I-90 WESTBOUND POKER RUN
(Running June 7-9)

BLACK HILLS POKER RUN
(Running June 8-9)

HILL CITY ART ON WHEELS CAR SHOW
(Saturday, June 9 at 10am)

BEAR COUNTRY WILD WHEELS NIGHT CAR SHOW
(Saturday, June 9 at 5pm)